



Charlotte Mason's House of Education,
Scale How, Ambleside, UK, 2009

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call jealousy exculpated. It would seem as if our Lord stripped us of the flimsy apron with which we cover the nakedness and poverty of our souls, and shewed us once for all, that much of that which we dignify under the name of anxiety, and pity ourselves for enduring, shews, in the Light of life, as covetousness and of which we must be aware. This is true even when we have wrongs to endure, or when our anxiety is for others. There is no hint that the covetous man preferred a *false* charge against his brother, and it is very possible that wife and children were objects of his care. Even so searching is the word of God.*

There are few things more gratifying than to perceive that the mind of the Son of Man worked as our minds work, that a subject develops in his thought according as it would do in our own. And now we come to another such exquisite gratification; we perceive that the Son of Man is a poet also; and is there a poem in all the world which so fulfils all the functions of poetry, which is so full of sweetness, refreshment, rest, illumination, expansion, as that poem which bids us "Consider the lilies of the field," and "the fowls of the air." All poets see and know, and inasmuch as He sees with an unbounded vision, sees all the past and all the future and all the issues of life, how could our Lord not be a poet? These words are so dear to us all that it is hardly necessary to dwell on them. But see how large is the Divine thought. Beauty should go beautifully, and it is with grace and fitness as the lilies of the field—possibly the red anemones of southern Europe and Palestine—that our Lord would garb the human form divine. And for meat, how well for the birds who have a table ever spread with the food of their desire; and in this lavish and gracious measure, our Father knoweth that we have need of these "things." How well the apostrophe fits our anxious hearts—"O, ye of little faith." That is just it; we are not without faith, but we have so little, and the "doubtful" mind expresses our state so precisely. We *may* not be of doubtful mind, we *may* not be anxious, for this also is a form of insincerity and obscures the light of the Christian soul whose business it is to shine. Education is an atmosphere, and nowhere else do we get the atmospheric conditions proper for the living soul set before us in a manner so exhaustive, as in this discourse of the Son of Man.†

* St. Luke xii. 13-21., R.V.

† St. Luke xii. 21-31., R.V.

OUR WORK.

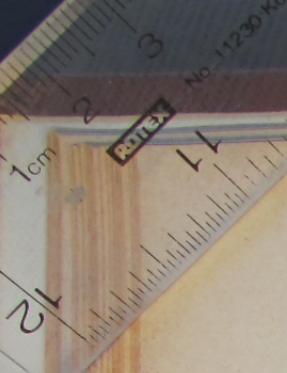
House of Education.—Last year was one of even unusually happy and successful work. We begin with much hope and courage. We shall have a larger number than usual of second year students, and these will, we believe, do a good deal towards the training of the first year students who enter this month. Mr. Rooper, at his visit in December last, expressed much satisfaction in the fact that the traditions of the college are becoming established and that each year shows advance on the last. We begin work on January 15th. We are looking forward to the coming of the new Vice-principal, Miss Williams. Her presence will make it possible to organise the work of the house better. There is a rumour abroad that the Principal intends to give up some of her own lectures. This is not the case. She enjoys the work too much to be willing to give up any part of it, and looks forward, God willing, to a long term of years of progressive work in the House of Education.

Practising School.—We should be glad to receive two well-taught girls of fourteen or fifteen into the practising school, to work in Class iv. Education would be free, and we know of a lady who would receive the girls, to board and take good care of them, at a quite reasonable cost. Application should be made at once, as the girls should be here by the beginning of term. The Secretary will send the programme of work for Class iv. to parents who would like to see it with a view to sending their daughters.

Meditations.—We still must beg our readers to subscribe for the "Meditations." We must have more members or we cannot afford to have them printed. Our readers will perceive that we have tried to "catch them with guile," by publishing the substance of two or three "Meditations" as an article under the heading of *Simplicity*.

Parents' Review School.—We still find that good and happy work is being done in many schoolrooms, and that children trained in the *Parents' Review* School are ready either to take up school work with intelligence and zest, or to take their place in the world as educated and accomplished girls, with a wide range of interests. One thing we should like to impress upon parents is, that when children join a class it is well that they should, as in a school, take up all studies excepting languages, arithmetic, and English grammar, at the point at which the class has arrived, and trust to the cycle of studies followed in the school for the recovery of any lost ground. The programmes for each class continue at about the same degree of difficulty so that a new programme means only a wider range of work, and not any great advance in difficulty excepting in the subjects named above, and special arrangements are made for these. It is not possible to send out examination results in less than six weeks.

Mothers' Educational Course.—We find that many mothers feel that they can take up one or two subjects of the Mothers' Educational Course and not the four. This is quite allowable, only candidates must write before the examination papers are due, and say which subjects they have studied.



BOOKS.

The Annual Conference has been fixed to commence on May 10th, and will be continued on the mornings of the 11th, 12th and 13th. The annual address will be given by Rev. the Hon. E. Lyttelton, on "The Relation Between Physical and Moral Training," on Wednesday evening, May 11th. Further details will be announced as soon as possible. Local Secretaries are especially requested to note these dates.

Natural History Club, January, 1898.—The following arrangements have been made. The fee for membership will now be 2s. 6d. Members will receive a syllabus of a course of reading on Natural History, recommended for adults and for children, and suggestions as to collections for the Exhibition. The privilege of exhibiting, and of receiving the criticisms on the exhibits, will in future be limited to members of the Central and of Branch Natural History Clubs.

Courses of back Letters (by Mr. Rowbotham) on Botany, Geology, Lessons from our Walks, Natural History, etc., can now be had from Miss Blogg, at reduced prices. Letters issued in 1895 and 1896, 5s. the course; Letters issued in 1897, 2s. 6d. the course.

BOOKS.

Anne Jemima Clough: A Memoir, by B. A. Clough (Arnold, 12/6). Miss Athene Clough has succeeded well in an important and difficult undertaking. It cannot be easy to write the life of a person with whom one has been for many years in intimate daily intercourse; and, every now and then, we do fail to see the wood for the trees. Each little peccadillo and weakness is unveiled with conscientious care, and then the author with equal care and, no doubt, keener enjoyment, restores the balance and makes us aware of some of the nobler elements which make up this great woman. One could wish away the rather academic insistence on Miss Clough's lack of education, as if to have been the sister and close friend of Arthur Hugh Clough were not a liberal education in itself; and the book would have certainly been more interesting to the general public if it had not contained a very detailed memoir of Newnham College as well as of its famous first Principal. But the author tells us in her preface that she writes chiefly in the hope of giving pleasure to Miss Clough's friends, most of whom were profoundly interested in the development of Newnham. Again, Miss B. A. Clough has been on her guard against the obvious snare of producing a volume which should be a mere panegyric of the subject of the memoir; and one understands that this book offers an occasion for many other panegyrics, which, however well-deserved and necessary, interfere a little with the artistic unity of the work. But it is idle to point out spots on the sun. We have here a workman-like and living picture of one of the most quietly influential personages who have impressed their mark on the Victorian age. It is not merely that Miss Clough did a great work, but her work was the outcome of her personality, the expression and fulfilment of her own aspirations. She is another example of the fact that any man's or woman's idea of life

works out its own expression and fulfilment. Therefore we think we are right in calling Miss Clough a great woman. She had a great and simple conception and carried it out with dogged persistence and unfailing gentleness. The history of the foundress of Newnham is practically that of the higher education of women in the last half-century. We read of her as a girl with, not so much acute intellectual cravings, as acute desires for some real part in the world's work. We trace her development through her Liverpool life, her first educational attempts, her efforts after training, endeavours to get women in the provinces into touch with the Universities—the real initiation of the University Extension Lectures,—and finally, through her life at Cambridge, which all the world knows. Thus she was more or less at the root of whatever has been done for the better education of women in the last fifty years. She was always a simple person and worked and spoke in simple and unostentatious ways. She was a reverent person, too, with no thought of the rights of women, but only of their needs, and with a most conservative desire *not* to revolutionise the woman's world. She tells a student that, as the result of her three years at Newnham, she will be better able to amuse her people at home! We cannot better conclude our notice of the life of this loveable woman and most successful worker, than with a short extract from the last page of the volume. "I should like, in concluding this account of Miss Clough's life, to recall some words of her own, written when she was twenty-one. In her Diary for 1841 she wrote:—'I care not for honour or praise if I could only really do something to benefit my fellow creatures. If I were a man, I would not work for riches, to leave a wealthy family behind me; I would work for my country, and make its people my heirs.' Side by side with this passage, I wish to place the not less characteristic words of counsel which occur in her last address to the students leaving college. 'One word more. Take the little pleasures of life, watch the sunsets and the clouds, the shadows in the streets and the misty light over our great cities. These bring joy by the way and thankfulness to our Heavenly Father.'"

Studies in Board Schools, by C. Morley (Smith, Elder & Co.) Mr. Morley has done a public service for which we are very much obliged to him. He has taken the London Board Schools out of the arena of vexed questions, stormy discussions, statistics, rates and "subjects," and planted them in the more genial region of natural human interests. His plan is a very simple one, but then, all great discoveries are very simple once they have been made. Mr. Morley merely goes to see, taking with him no more apparatus than a pair of kindly, seeing eyes. He takes you first among the Wild Boys of Walworth and you are introduced to "Citizen Carrots," a freckled-faced boy of twelve, rather ragged, with holes in his shoes, a red muffler round his neck, a thick, wispy crop of red hair, not an inviting picture; but before Mr. Morley has done with him you feel a half-amused, but very genuine respect for this worthy citizen who supports his family and is in keen earnest about his education, especially about that part of it which relates to his rights and duties as a citizen. No wonder that "Carrots" should sit upright, square his shoulders, open his eyes and